

2LT Quentin Roosevelt  
Died 14 July 1918  
20 years old  
World War I



*Lt. Quentin Roosevelt*

Quentin Roosevelt, President Theodore Roosevelt's youngest son, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps where he became a fighter pilot during World War I. During the Second Battle of the Marne, Quentin's plane (a Nieuport 28), was shot down over France at Chamery near Coulonges-en-Tardenois by the German ace Sergeant Karl Thom and he was killed. German propagandists distributed pictures of his body, and then buried his body at the crash site near Coulonges-en-Tardenois. Determining his identity by love letters from Flora Whitney, Quentin was buried with full battlefield honors by the Germans. For propaganda purposes, the Germans made a postcard of the dead pilot and plane.

After his grave came under Allied control, thousands of American soldiers visited it to pay their respects. Quentin's resting place became a shrine and an inspiration to his comrades in arms. Even though he was the son of a president, he had died as a soldier nobly in the service of his country.



PFC Harold Gonsalves  
Died 15 April 1945  
19 years old  
World War II

On 15 April 1945, the Private First Class Harold Gonsalves was a member of an eight-man forward observer team which was engaged in directing artillery fire in support of an attack by the infantry on Japanese positions on Motobu Peninsula. When it finally became necessary for the team to advance to the actual front lines, the officer in charge took PFC Gonsalves and one other man with him. PFC Gonsalves was acting Scout Sergeant of the team. He and the other Marine were to lay telephone lines for communication with the artillery battalion.

As the team advanced to the front, they were brought under heavy enemy rifle, grenade and mortar fire. Just as the three had reached the front lines, a Japanese grenade landed among them. It was less than a foot from the two Marines with PFC Gonsalves. Without a moment's hesitation, he flung himself on the deadly missile, taking the full explosion into his own body. He selflessly gave his life for his fellow Marines and his country. The other two were not even touched by grenade fragments and they successfully completed their mission.

Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro  
Died 27 Sept 1942  
22 years old  
World War II



Douglas A. Munro enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in September 1939 and had achieved the rank of Signalman First Class by September 1942. On the 27 September 1942, while leading a group of landing craft during the Guadalcanal Campaign, he participated in the evacuation of U.S. Marines from the beach at Guadalcanal's Point Cruz. With all the Marines safely in the small extraction crafts, Munro and Petty Officer Ray Evans steered their LCP off shore. As they passed towards Point Cruz they noticed a Landing Craft Tank (LCT) full of Marines grounded on the beach. Munro steered his craft and directed another LCT to pull it off. Twenty minutes later, the craft was free and heading to sea. Before they could get far from shore, the Japanese set up a machine gun and began firing at the boats. Evans saw the fire and shouted a warning to Munro. The roar of the boat's engine, however, prevented Munro from hearing and a single bullet hit him in the base of the skull. Petty Officer Munro died before reaching the operating base, but due to his extraordinary heroism, outstanding leadership and gallantry, Munro posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

C/M Edwin J. O'Hara  
Died 27 Sept 1942  
19 years old  
World War II



On the morning of September 27, 1942, two German raiders, the *Stier* and the *Tannenfels*, suddenly appeared out of the mist to attack the small merchantman, SS *Stephen Hopkins*. The heavy guns of the *Stier* pounded the *Stephen Hopkins* while the machine guns from the *Tannenfels* sprayed her decks for one-half hour at close quarters. The heroic Naval gun crew of the *Stephen Hopkins* exchanged shot for shot with the enemy, placing thirty-five shells into the waterline of one of the raiders, forcing its crew to abandon their sinking ship. The gun crew commander was killed early in the action, and the remaining gun crew were all killed or wounded when an enemy shell exploded the magazine of their gun.

At the explosion, Cadet O'Hara ran aft and single-handedly served and fired the damaged gun with five live shells remaining in the ready box, scoring direct hits near the waterline of the second raider. Cadet O'Hara was mortally wounded in this action. With her boilers exploded, engines destroyed, masts shot away, and ablaze from stem to stern, the gallant *Stephen Hopkins* finally went under carrying Cadet O'Hara and several of his fighting shipmates with her.

SGT Daniel Matthews  
Died 28 March 1953  
21 years old  
Korean War



Sergeant Daniel Matthews was killed at Vegas Hill on 28 March 1953, while fighting with Company F, of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Assaulting an enemy outpost which had driven off six earlier attacks, he and his men were pinned down by a machine gun at the peak of the enemy position. Seeing that the guns murderous fire prevented the evacuation of a wounded comrade, he worked his way toward the base of the enemy emplacement, and armed only with a rifle, leaped onto the rocks around the enemy nest. Although he took the enemy by surprise with his single-handed attack, he was wounded mortally when the gun was turned on him. Notwithstanding his wounds, he killed two of the crew, drove a third to cover and completely silenced the weapon before he himself died. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in March, 1954.

CPT Michael J. Estocin  
Died 26 April 1967  
35 years old  
Vietnam War



Captain Michael J. Estocin, then Lieutenant Commander, was a fighter pilot during the Vietnam conflict. On 26 April 1967, Lt. Cmdr. Estocin flew the lead aircraft in a section of Skyhawks conducting a SAM suppression mission over Haiphong. During the mission, his aircraft was struck by shrapnel from an exploding SAM and became engulfed in flames. He turned his crippled aircraft toward the east in an attempt to reach the sea.

John Nichols checked the section leader's aircraft to evaluate the extent of the battle damage it sustained and noted the cockpit area was undamaged by the missile. He also

visually checked the condition of the pilot. According to his wingman, Lt. Cmdr. Estocin was sitting erect, was uninjured and appeared to be in control of his aircraft. As he crossed the coastline, Michael Estocin radioed, "I'm going down, switch to channel 5," which was the search and rescue (SAR) frequency.

Because of the cloud cover, Lt. Cmdr. Estocin's ejection was not observed. Lieutenant Commander Estocin was eventually declared Missing in Action, but was later confirmed to be a Prisoner of War. To this day, neither Estocin nor his remains have ever been returned. For his courageous actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Congress. He left behind his wife, Maria, and 3 children.

CPL Terry Teruo Kawamura  
Died 20 March 1969  
19 years old  
Vietnam War



Corporal Terry Kawamura was serving in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Company when an enemy demolition team infiltrated the unit quarters area and opened fire with automatic weapons. Disregarding the intense fire, Corporal Kawamura ran for his weapon. At that moment, a violent explosion tore a hole in the roof and stunned the occupants of the room. Kawamura jumped to his feet, secured his weapon, and as he ran toward the door to return the enemy fire, he observed that another explosive charge had been thrown through the hole in the roof to the floor. He immediately realized that 2 stunned fellow soldiers were in great peril and shouted a warning. Although in a position to escape, Corporal Kawamura unhesitatingly wheeled around and threw himself on the charge. In complete disregard for his safety, he prevented serious injury or death to several members of his unit. The extraordinary courage and selflessness, Corporal Terry Teruo Kawamura was awarded the Medal of Honor by Congress.

PFC Robert H. Jenkins  
Died 5 March 1969  
20 years old  
Vietnam War



Private First Class Robert H. Jenkins had been serving as a machine gunner with Company C at Fire Support Base Argonne, south of the Demilitarized Zone on 5 March 1969, when he was killed in action. He and his 12-man recon team were attacked by the enemy with mortars, machine guns, and grenades. Jenkins and fellow Marine, Fred Ostrom, then took up position in a two-man fighting emplacement. When a hand grenade was thrown into the emplacement, Private First Class Jenkins leaped on top of Ostrom, shielding him from the explosion and absorbing the full impact of the grenade. The blast resulted with Private Jenkins being seriously wounded and dying not long after. For his heroic act and sacrifice of life, Congress awarded him the Medal of Honor.

SFC Randall D. Shughart  
Died 3 Oct 1993  
35 years old  
Somalia



On 3 October 1993 Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart and his sniper team leader volunteered to be inserted on a voluntary mission at a helicopter crash site to protect four critically wounded personnel. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and pistol, Sergeant First Class Shughart and his team leader, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members and establish a perimeter around them. Sergeant First Class Shughart used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers while traveling the perimeter, protecting the downed crew.

He continued his protective fire until he depleted his ammunition and was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Sergeant First Class Shughart's was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in keeping with the highest standards of military service which reflected great credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army.

SFC Paul Smith  
Died 4 April 2003  
33 years old  
Operation Iraqi Freedom



Sgt. 1st Class Smith joined the 11th Engineer Battalion in 1999 and immediately became an integral part of Bravo Company. In the spring of 2002, he was promoted to sergeant

first class and completed the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course in August 2002.

In action near Baghdad Airport on April 4, 2003, Smith, a soldier in Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion, working with units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, was tasked to build a compound to hold enemy prisoners, when his small force came under attack by more than 100 enemies. Smith threw two grenades and fired rocket launchers at the enemy before manning a .50-caliber machine gun on an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier to protect his troops. While engaging an enemy attacking from three sides, Smith fired more than 300 rounds from the machine gun before being killed. He left behind his wife of 11 years, Birgit Smith, son David Anthony Smith, age 9, and daughter Jessica Martha Smith, age 17.

PFC Lori Piestewa  
Died 23 March 2003  
23 years old  
Operation Iraqi Freedom



While in Nasiriyah, Iraq, on March 23, 2003, Private First Class Lori Piestewa drove a Humvee through a hail of gunfire until the vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade and crashed. Three other soldiers in the Humvee died in the crash. Piestewa and Jessica Lynch both survived but were severely wounded. They were taken prisoner, with Piestewa dying soon after of her wounds. A video of some of the American Prisoners of War, including Piestewa (filmed shortly before she died in an Iraqi hospital), was later shown around the world on Al Jazeera television. For her actions, PFC Lori Piestewa was posthumously promoted from Private First Class to Specialist, and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal. She left behind her 4 year old son and her 3 year old daughter.